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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/500,467	07/15/2004	Lean Sen Lor	LORL3002/JEK	8260
7590	04/11/2006		EXAMINER	
Bacon & Thomas 4th Floor 625 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314-1176			WHITE, RODNEY BARNETT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/500,467

Applicant(s)

LOR, LEAN SEN

Examiner

Rodney B. White

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 02/03/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

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Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 19-22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shults (U.S Patent No. 349,907).

Shults teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs *A,B*; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *D* and a fixed bottom portion (upper portion of *B*) , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism *e* to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *E* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said bottom portion of the backrest extends to form hind legs, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Staples(U.S Patent No. 44,987).

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Staples teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *B* and a fixed bottom portion *A* , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism *C* to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *D* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said bottom portion of the backrest extends to form hind legs, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, , wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Corning (U.S Patent No. 2,587,822).

Corning teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 2,3; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 4 and a fixed bottom portion (upper portion of 3) , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism *e* to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes

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an elastic member *5,15,25* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said bottom portion of the backrest extends to form hind legs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ambasz (U.S Patent No. 4,084,850).

Ambasz teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs *212*; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *22* and a fixed bottom portion *72* , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism *104, 466, 344* to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *108, 348,468* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge *466, 104, 344* or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ambasz (U.S Patent No. 4,157,203).

Ambasz teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs *10*; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *26, 120* and a fixed bottom portion *100, 104* (or *24* or *104* can also be considered a reclinable top portion with respect to fixed bottom portion *27* or *100*), both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism *42, 102, 114* to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *108, 348, 468* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge *466, 104, 344* or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ambasz (U.S Patent No. 4,33,683).

Ambasz teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs *21*; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top

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portion *12* and a fixed bottom portion *14* , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements (See Figures 5-19 and 33-37, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used).

Claims 19-20, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haedo (U.S Patent No. 4,549,764).

Haedo teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *14* and a fixed bottom portion *16*, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *10* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil

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spring, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brennan (U.S Patent No. 4,733,910).

Brennan teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 4; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 3 and a fixed bottom portion, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 10 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting limbs (See Figures 1-19).

Claims 19-20, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brennan (U.S Patent No. 4,733,910).

Brennan teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 11; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 21 and a fixed bottom portion 19, both portions being hinged together, and a

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reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 23 (steel hinge) embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used, (See Figures 1-18).

Claims 19-20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lohmeyer(U.S Patent No. 4,856,846).

Lohmeyer teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 5 and a fixed bottom portion 4, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 23 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tolleson et al (U.S Patent No. 4,869,552).

Tolleson et al teach a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 13 and a fixed bottom portion 32, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 56 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by becker, III et al (U.S Patent No. 5,100,201).

Becker, III et al teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 14; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 72 and a fixed bottom portion 74, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism 94(See Fig. 3) to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining

mechanism includes an elastic member embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge 94 or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22-23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ambasz (U.S Patent No. 5,108,149).

Ambasz teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 10; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 18 and a fixed bottom portion, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, wherein said top

portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used (See Figures 1-16).

Claims 19-20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Naess (U.S Patent No. 5,114,210).

Naess teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs *11*; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion *20* and a fixed bottom portion *21* , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member *21* embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge *35* or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22-23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zapf (U.S Patent No. 5,649,739).

Zapf teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 2 and a fixed bottom portion 1, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 6,7,8,9 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge (*See Figures 5-6*) or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schrewe et al (U.S Patent No. 5,704,688).

Schrewe et al teach a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 9; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion and a fixed bottom portion , both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member (See

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Figures 1-9) embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said sitting base and backrest are padded and upholstered, , wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raftery (U.S Patent No. 5,887,946).

Raftery teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 12; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 44,46 and a fixed bottom portion 38, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism 74,76 to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 78 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge 78 or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fismen (U.S Patent No. 5,904,397).

Fismen teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 6; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 8 and a fixed bottom portion 7, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20, 22, and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raftery (U.S Patent No. 5,988, 746).

Raftery teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs 12; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 44,46 and a fixed bottom portion 38, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism 74,76 to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 78 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest

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wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, wherein said top and bottom portion of the backrest are hinged together by a steel hinge 78 or metal plate which is capable of withstanding repeated cycles of reclining movements, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Claims 19-20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gaevert (U.S Patent No. 6,739,663 B2).

Gaevert teaches a chair having reclining mechanism, comprising: a plurality of legs; a sitting base supported by said legs; a backrest comprising a reclinable top portion 34 and a fixed bottom portion 28, both portions being hinged together, and a reclining mechanism 50 to allow the top portion of the backrest to recline according to the pressure exerted by a user, and to return the top portion to the original position upon removal of said pressure, and wherein the reclining mechanism includes an elastic member 56 embedded between the top portion and bottom portion of the backrest wherein said reclining means comprises one of a spring plate, spring bar, and coil spring, further comprising at least one supporting surface for resting of limbs, wherein said top portion is able to recline within a range of reclining angles in accordance with the reclining means used.

Remarks

While Applicant's representative has amended the claims, they still were not amended to include any patentable subject matter. The claims are so broad and teach such old concepts, that numerous references still read 102(b) and 102(e) over the claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

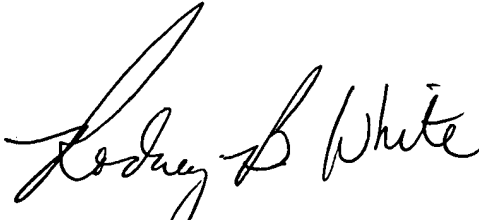
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney B. White whose telephone number is (571) 272-6863. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rodney B. White,
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3636
April 6, 2006



RODNEY B. WHITE
PRIMARY EXAMINER